Right to decommission Dam

2312. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any law empowering State Governments the right to decommission a Dam, if found unsafe by draining out the water stored in its reservoir;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not in what manner such unsafe Dams would be looked after?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) "The Kerala Irrigation and Water Conservation Act 2003" passed by the State legislature empowers the State Government to decommission a dam.

(b) This Act provides for constitution of a Dam Safety Authority, which is to be headed by a retired Judge of the High Court. Other members of the Dam Safety Authority will be eminent specialist in the field, officers from the various State Government Departments and Chief Engineer, Central Water Commission, Government of India. Relevant provision of this Act regarding decommissioning of dam are as under:

"62(e) To advise Government to suspend the functioning of any dam if the public safety so demands;

62(f) To examine the precariousness of any dam, in public interest and to submit its recommendations including decommissioning of dam to the Government;

62(5) The disbanding, construction or reconstruction of any dam shall be made only after obtaining a report in that regard from the Authority."

(c) Does not arise.

Flood protection in Assam

2313. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) in what manner flood protection of Brahmaputra, and its tributaries